

Message Text

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SUBJ: WORLD FOOD COUNCIL THIRD DAY, OPENING SESSIONS AT
MINISTERIAL LEVEL

REF: ROME 9093

/SUMMARY/: MAREI AND OTHER OFFICERS OFFICIALLY ELECTED AND
INSTALLED FOR WORLD FOOD COUNCIL. FIRST DAY'S PROCEEDINGS LEFT
LITTLE DOUBT THAT COUNCIL SEEN BY GROUP OF 77 AS FORUM FOR
VOICING BROAD ECONOMIC CHALLENGE. DIFFERENCES OVER PROCEDURES
THINLY VEILED DEEPER DIVISIONS. GENERAL DEBATE BEGAN ON AGENDA
ITEM 6, DEALING WITH WORLD FOOD SITUATION AND THE ISSUES BEFORE
THE COUNCIL, AND FOLLOWED LINES OF COUNTRY GROUPINGS. /END
SUMMARY./

1. FIRST OFFICIAL SESSION OF WORLD FOOD COUNCIL, AT MINISTERIAL
LEVEL, OPENED BY UN DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL, BRADFORD MORSE,
IN NAME OF U.N. HE CALLED ATTENTION TO UNSYG CONCERN IN WORLD
FOOD PROBLEMS AS EVIDENCED BY SYG SPEECH AT WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE,
ATTENDANCE AT MAY MEETING ON CREATION OF INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND HIS APPOINTMENT OF HANNAH TO HEAD
COUNCIL, CONCLUDING THIS STATEMENT, MORSE CALLED FOR ELECTION OF
COUNCIL OFFICERS. MAREI FORMALLY VOTED IN AS PRESIDENT BY
ACCLAMATION AFTER NOMINATION BY PAKISTAN AND SECONDING BY CANADA.
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MAREI OFFICIALLY TOOK OFFICE WITH APPROPRIATE FANFARE AND EQUALLY
APPROPRIATE SPEECH. RUSSIAN, MEXICAN AND BANGLADESH HEADS OF

DELEGATIONS WERE ELECTED VICE PRESIDENTS, AND ASHTON OF UK
ELECTED RAPPORTEUR ONCE AGAIN.

2. PROCEDURAL INTERVENTION BY PAKISTAN AND BANGLADESH TO CALL
FOR ARABIC AS AN OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF THE COUNCIL AND FOR
FACILITIES TO BE SET UP FOR THIS. SECRETARY OF COUNCIL RESPONDED
THAT THE COUNCIL COULD MAKE SUCH RECOMMENDATION TO UNGA, BUT
UNTIL DECISION THERE, COUNCIL WAS GUIDED BY EXISTING RULES OF UN
ON SUBJE T. IN AFTERNOON INTERVENTION ON SAME ISSUE BY LIBYA
BROUGHT FORTH A DLR20 THOUSAND PLUS COST FOR USE OF ARABIC AS
ONE OF OFFICIAL LANGUAGES. CHAIR RULED THAT THERE WAS AGREEMENT TO
RECOMMEND HAVING ARABIC INTERPRETATIONAND DOCUMENTS IN FUTURE SESSIONS.

3. MAREI NOTED THAT OPENING OF COUNCIL COINCIDED WITH DAY OF
INDEPENDENCE FOR MOZAMBIQUE. GUINEA AND COLOMBIA MADE OBSERVANCE
SPEECHES AND COUNCIL "STOOD TO HONOR THOSE FALLEN IN THE STRUGGLE
FOR INDEPENDENCE." THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY CONCILLIATORY SPEECH
BY PORTUGAL. DRAMA CLIMAXED BY TRANSLATOR'S ASIDE COMING THROUGH
CLEARLY IN ENGLISH EARPHONES "BLAH, BLAH, BLAH...".

4. BOERMA, DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF FAO, MADE FRANK, WIDE-RANGING
VALEDICTORY STATEMENT. WHILE CALLING WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE ONE OF
MOST IMPORTANT EVENTS IN RECENT YEARS, PROCEEDED TO CALL CONFERENCE
DISCUSSION "DISTURBINGLY UNREAL" BECAUSE IT CONCENTRATED ON
LONG TERM ISSUES REMOTE FROM IMMEDIATE REALITIES OF HUNGER AND
THREATENED MASS STARVATION. HE NOTED THAT SENSE OF FOOD CRISIS
HAS FADED BECAUSE OF SHORT TERM MEASURES SUBSEQUENTLY TAKEN,
FALLING FOOD AND FERTILIZER PRICES AND FAVIRABKE FIRECASTS
FOR MOST CROPS IN 1975. HOWEVER, HE INVEIGHED AGANST TENDENCY
RELAX ABOUT WORLD FOOD SITUATION, AND EXPRESSED HOPE WE COULD
LEARN FROM HISTORY AND EXPERIENCE. PROBLEM STILL FACED IS THAT
MSA FOOD GAP IN 1975/76 BETWEEN 14 AND 20 MILLION TONS. FALL
IN COMMODITY PRICES HAS ADVERSELY AFFECTED GENERAL ECONOMIC SITUATION

FOR THESE COUNTRIES AND INCREASED INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE HE SAID
WILL BE REQUIRED TO FINANCE NECESSARY IMPORTS. HE NOTED THAT IN-
:43- 3\$ 049DUCTION THIS YEAR WILL BE IN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND
THAT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HAVE FAILED TO INVEST SUFFICIENT
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RESOURCES IN AGRICULTURAL SECTOR NOR TAKEN THE POLICY MEASURES TO
REMEDY SITUATION. ON TRADE, BOERMA EXPRESSED VIEW THAT DCS APPEAR
TO NOW REALIZE THE NEED TO PROVIDE LARGER MARKET ACCESS FOR LDC
PRODUCTS AND HELD UP THE LOME CONVENTION AS A PROMISING DEVELOPMENT.
IN DISCUSSING NEED FOR INCREASED FLOW OF EXTERNAL RESOURCES FOR
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, HE NOTED GENERAL SUPPORT FOR IFAD
THAT WAS SHOWN AT GENEVA MEETING LAST MONTH AND NOTED SPECIFICALLY
"THAT HAS SINCE BEEN REAFFIRMED SEPARATELY BY SECRETARY OF STATE
KISSINGER ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED STATES." ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY,
HE ATTACKED VIEW THAT IWC AND GATT NEGOTIATIONS WAS THE WAY TO

ACHIEVE SECURITY. HE MAINTAINED ACTION NEEDED NOW WITHOUT REGARD TRADE ASPECTS AND BARGAINING. BY INFERENCE, ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN IN ACCORDANCE FAO UNDERTAKING. BOERMA CONCLUDED THAT TARGET FO 3.6 PERCENT INCREASE IN FOOD PRODUCTION IN LDCE BY 1985 WOULD NOT BE MET, HENCE NEED FOR LONG TERM FOOD AID ON A GUARANTEED BASIS.

5. AFTER AUINO REPORTED ON ACTIVITIES OF WORLD FOOD PROGRAM, MAREI TURNED TO AGENDA ITEM 4 AND REPORTED THAT WORKING GROUP ON PROCEDURES HAD MADE SLOW PROGRESS BUT WOULD CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS AND REPORT ON THURSDAY. INDIAN REPRESENTATIVE INJECTED THAT MAJOR AREA OF DISAGREEMENT WAS ON ROLE OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT VS. THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND THAT HE SPOKE FOR OTHERS WHO WANTED A PRESIDENT TO GIVE POLITICAL LEADERSHIP TO THE COUNCIL.

6. AGENDA ITEM 5 OPENED WITH STATEMENT BY RAPPORTEUR SUMMARIZING REPORTS ON PROGRESS MADE IN IMPLEMENTING RESOLUTIONS OF WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE. HE ALSO COVERED STATEMENTS MADE IN PREPARATORY SESSIONS ON HOW REPORTS AND SECRETARIAT'S PRESENTATION OF THEM TO THE COUNCIL MIGHT BE IMPROVED. ROMANIA REPRESENTATIVE MADE FURTHER INTERVENTION INTER ALIA CALLING FOR REPORTS ON WHAT NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS AS WELL AS INTERNATIONAL BODIES WERE DOING IN RESPONSE TO CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS.

7. DISCUSSION OF AGENDA ITEM 6 TOOK MOST OF AFTERNOON. RAPPORTEUR REPORTED STATUS OF PROCEDURAL DISCUSSION FROM PREVIOUS DAY AND COUNCIL SECRETARIAT (ZIZ) AGAIN OPENED DISCUSSION (SEE REFTEL) OF 6/24/75. AZIZ MADE LONG PRESENTATION AIMED AT JUSTIFYING PROPOSALS OF SECRETARIAT WHICH IN SOME INSTANCES WENT BEYOND CONSENSUS REACHED IN FAO BODIES THAT RECENTLY CONSIDERED SAME ISSUES.

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8. COUNCIL PROMPTLY FELL INTO SAME PATTERN OF BROAD POLICY STATEMENTS THAT ABSORBED MOST OF WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE PLENARY SESSIONS LAST NOVEMBER. GUINEA AND MEXICO MADE LENGTHY STATEMENTS ON RELATION OF COUNCIL WORK TO NIEO, FORMER NOTING INTER ALIA THAT OPEC COUNTRIES WERE HELPING CREATE POLITICAL WILL TO BRING ABOUT NEEDED CHANGES. FRANCE, GERMANY, SWEDEN, REPORTED ON THEIR RESPECTIVE ACTIONS IN FURTHERANCE OF WORLD FOOD SECURITY. DIFFERING VIEWS OF COUNCIL APPARENT IN STATEMENTS MADE THUS FAR WITH ALMOST 20 MORE SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY. U.S. PLANNING POSITIVE STATEMENT WITH SHARP FOCUS ON DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN LDCE TO GET DISCUSSION AND COUNCIL ON TRACK.

9. FIRST DAY'S PROCEEDINGS LEFT LITTLE DOUBT THAT COUNCIL IS BEING USED BY SOME OF G-77 AS ANOTHER FORUM FOR VOICING BROAD ECONOMIC CHALLENGE. VOLPE

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